



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
Post Office Box 6898
JBER, Alaska 99506-0898

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	March 22, 2017
EXPIRATION DATE:	April 21, 2017
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2016-288
WATERWAY:	Wrangell Narrows

Interested parties are hereby notified that a Department of the Army permit application has been received for work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Ms. Roberta Budnik at (907) 753-2785, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, by fax at (907) 753-5567, or by email at roberta.k.budnik@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: Mr. Raleigh Cook, Post Office Box 1438, Petersburg, Alaska 99833

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 14, T. 60 S., R. 79 E., Copper River Meridian; USGS Quad Map Petersburg C-3; Latitude 56.6678° N., Longitude 132.9147° W.; near 11.7 of the Mitkoff Highway, in Petersburg, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is the construction of a new residence.

PROPOSED WORK: Up to 960 cubic yards (CY) of fill material would be discharge into 0.1289-acre of waters of the U.S., including wetlands for the construction of a new residence. An 80-foot by 100-foot area of the property would be cleared of trees, stumps, and brush. A portion of this would be excavated to create a level area for a home and workshop. A 10-foot tall by 120-foot long riprap wall would be constructed at the mean high water line (+15 feet). Up to 150 CY of riprap would be used to construct the wall. Behind the wall would be filled with up to 750 CY of excavated material, which would construct both a yard and drain field for the residence's septic system. A 500-foot long by 4-foot wide trail would be constructed from the property line to the residence and would require up to 50 CY of 3-inch minus rock over

Typar. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-4), dated March 6, 2017.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The home and workshop would be constructed on steel pilings, which is outside of the Corps' jurisdiction.

The applicant considered constructing a wastewater outfall system for the residence, however the length necessary to reach the correct area of the narrows would be too far (2400 feet).

APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION: The applicant proposes the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the United States from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material.

a. Avoidance: The proposed project location consists entirely of wetlands, therefore the applicant cannot avoid impacts to waters of the U.S. completely. The property cannot be accessed by water.

b. Minimization: The construction of the home and workshop on piles would minimize impacts to waters of the U.S. The applicant also proposes to use silt fences and/or wattles during construction to minimize sedimentation or erosion of exposed soils. Also, the applicant proposes to lay down Typar before the placement of fill for the proposed trail, and behind the proposed riprap wall.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: No compensatory mitigation has been proposed by the applicant.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Both the mapper and the document repository were searched. There are no known cultural resources in the permit area or within the vicinity of the permit area. The permit area has been determined to be the footprint of the proposed project, as all project components would take place within waters of the U.S. Consultation of the AHRs constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the Corps at this time, and we are otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. The Corps has made a No Historic Properties Affected (No Effect) determination for the proposed project. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Any comments SHPO may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work. The Corps is requesting the SHPO's concurrence with this determination.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the known or historic range of the Mexico Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of the humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and the Western DPS of the Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*). We have determined the described activity would have no effect on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, and would have no effect on any designated or proposed critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). Therefore, no consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required. However, any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The project area is within the known range of the chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*), pink salmon (*O. gorbuscha*), coho salmon (*O. kisutch*), sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*), and chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*). We have determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH in the project area. However, any comments or recommendations the NMFS may have concerning EFH will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Alaska District fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between Federally recognized Tribes and the Federal government. Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Alaska District on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This Public Notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal right or resource. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander during the public comment period.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The outcome of the general balancing process would determine whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur. The decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands,

cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Commander determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authority:

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States – Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

Project drawings and a Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are enclosed with this Public Notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER
401 Certification Program
Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
WQM/401 CERTIFICATION
410 WILLOUGHBY AVENUE
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1795
PHONE: (907) 465-5321/FAX: (907) 465-5274

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No. **POA-2016-288, Wrangell Narrows**, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

After reviewing the application, the Department may certify there is reasonable assurance the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project, with respect to Water Quality Certification, may submit written comments to the address above by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice.



LEGEND

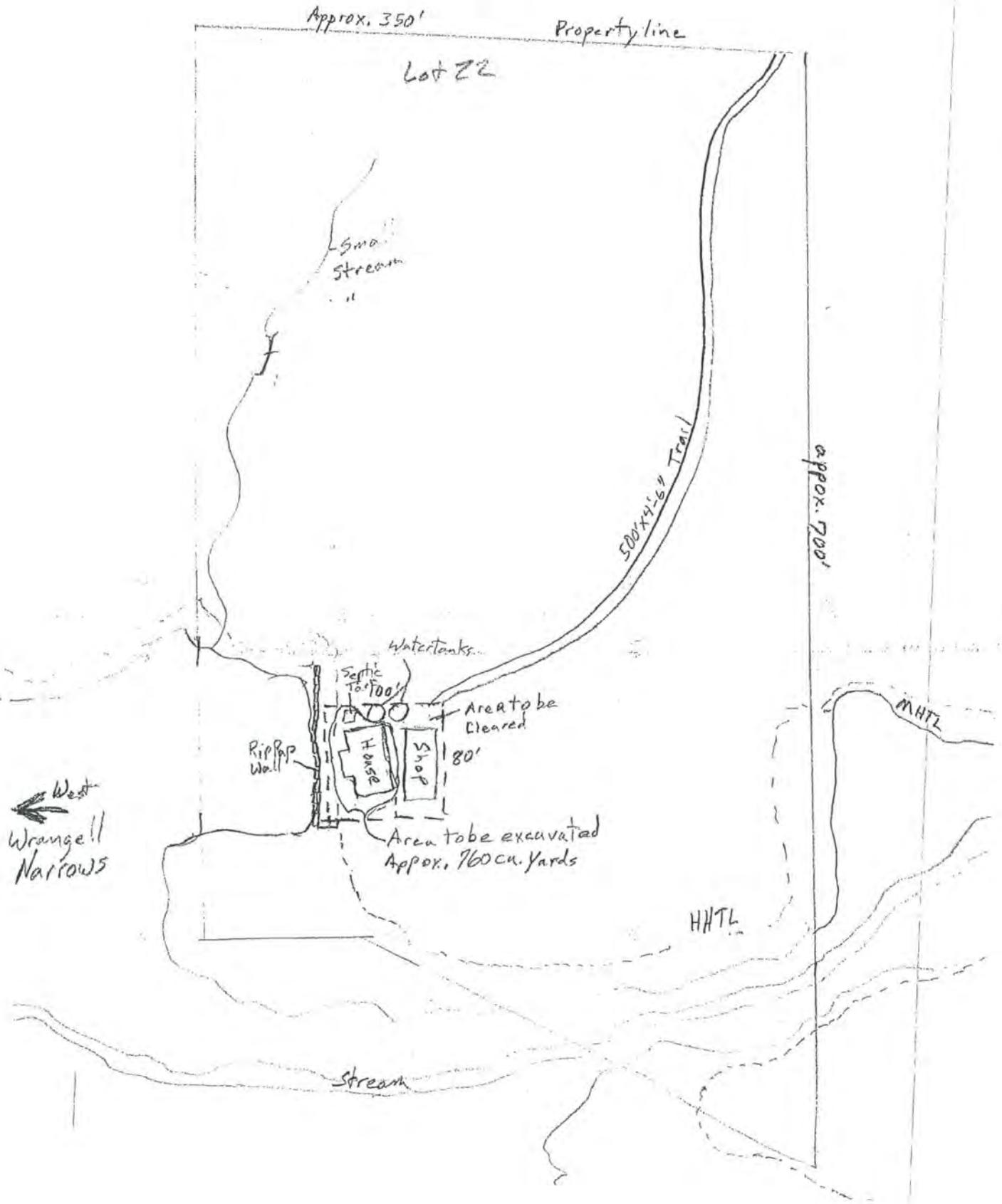


- 1) 56.6662 N.
132.9156 W.
- 2) 56.6683 N.
132.9136 W.
- 3) 56.6683 N.
132.9153 W.
- 4) 56.6667 N.
132.9153 W.
- 5) 56.6667 N.
132.9150 W.

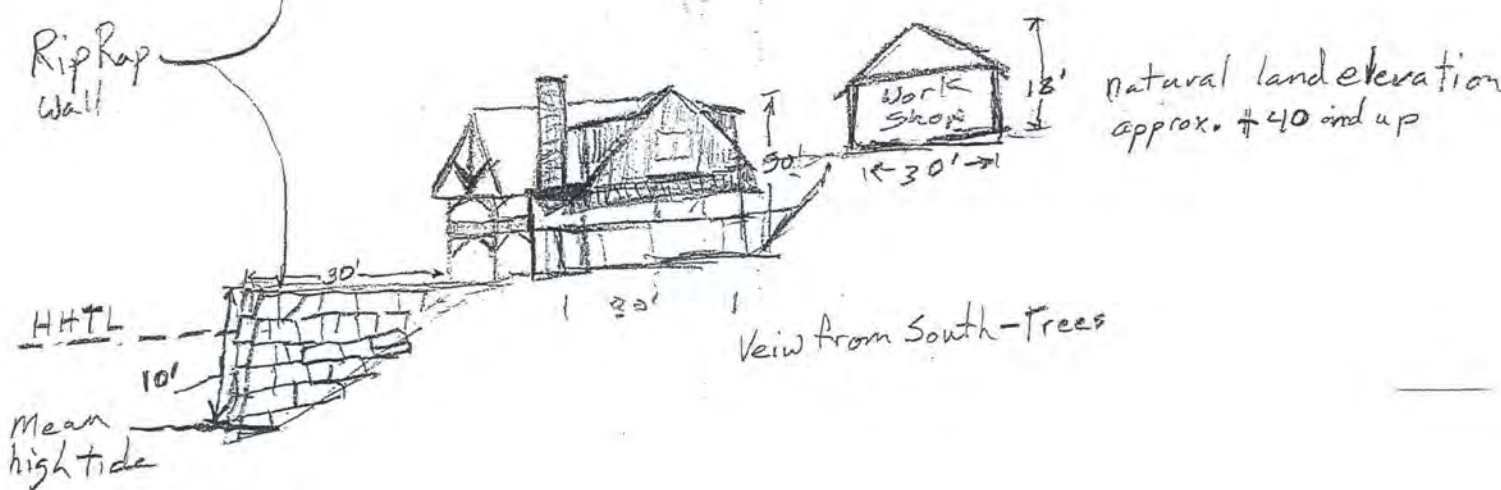
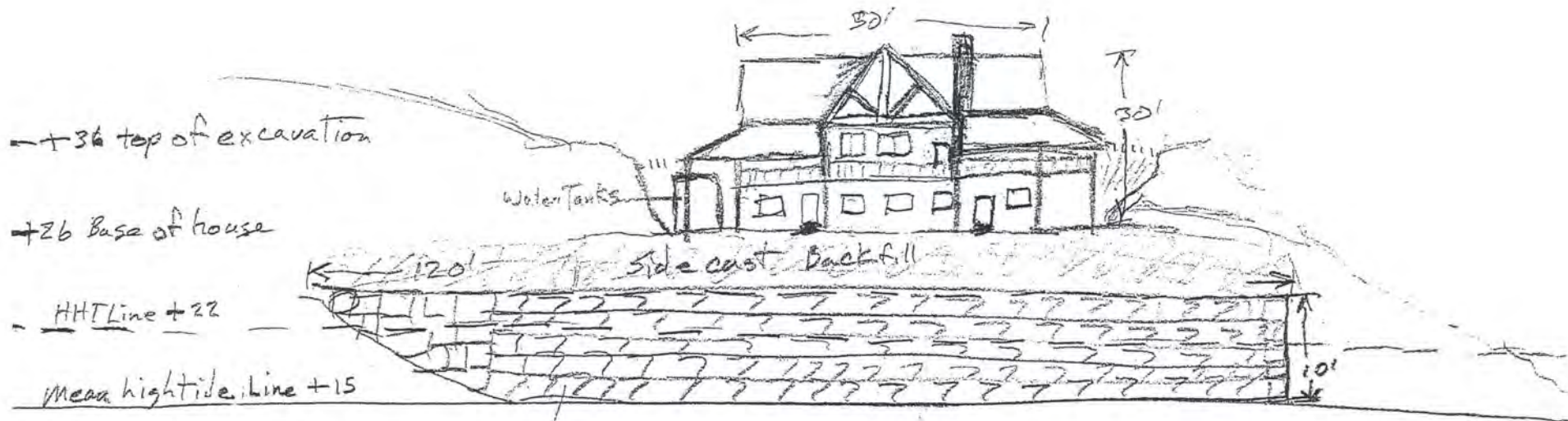
Points taken from
Alaska Mapper
as yet unsurveyed.



US Army Corps of Engineers
This map was produced using the
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16 Feb 2017 @ 1029

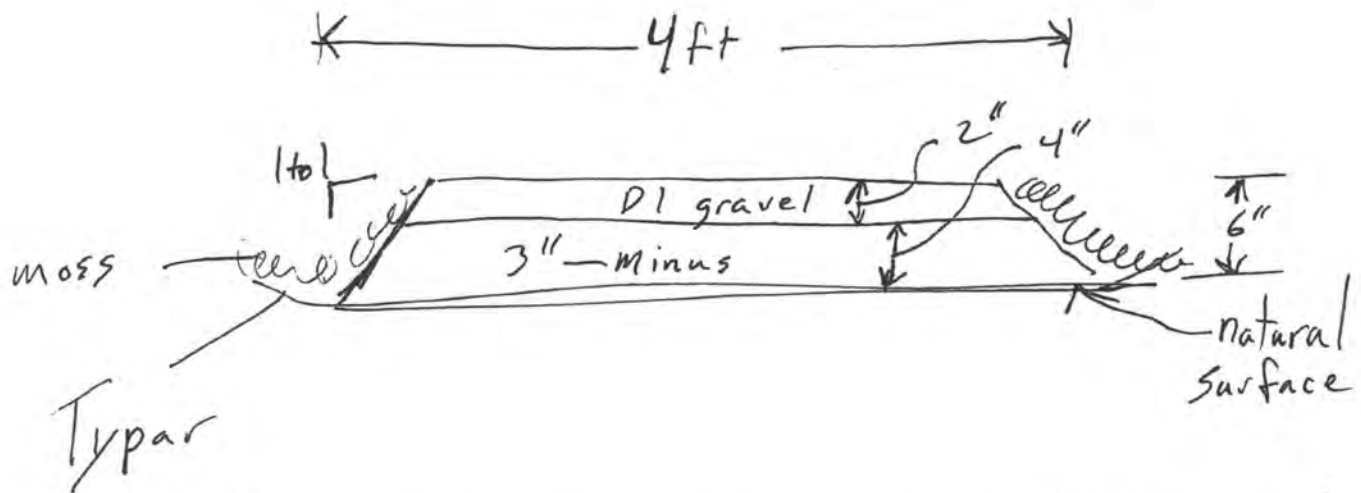


View from west - trees



View from South - Trees

Trail Cross section.



logs and brush will be removed, stump and trees will be avoided.